

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01878 181432Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00  
ACDA-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
/100 W

-----072206 181444Z /44/46,

O 101725Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9895

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MARIDD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNA S

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CONFIDENTIAL NOUAKCHOTT 1878

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT - PARA 2)

DAKAR ALSO FOR DEFENSE ATTACHE

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MR, MORG

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON LT.COL. MUSTAPHA OULD MUHAMMED  
SALEK

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT 447, B. NOUAKCHOTT 1873

1.THE LEADER OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR RECTIFICA-  
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TION LT. COL. MUSTAPHA OULD MUHAMED SALEK HAS NOT BEEN A  
STRANGER TO POLITICS EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN. HE HAS HAD  
TWO INCARNATIONS AS MAURITANIA'S MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF, ONE  
IN THE BEGINNING OF 1969 AND AGAIN BEGINNING EARLY THIS  
YEAR. ONE ACCOUNT OF HIS ACCESSION TO CHIEF OF STAFF IN  
1969 RELATES THAT HE HAD BITTERLY DISAGREED WITH FORMER CHIEF  
OF STAFF M'BAREK OULD BOUNA MOKHTAR ON THE DEGREE OF

POLITICAL CONTROL OF ARMY WITH M'BAREK ADVOCATING INDEPENDENCE AND MUSTAPHA ADHERING TO VIEW THAT POLITICAL PARTY SHOULD CONTROL ARMY.

2. ACCORDING TO ONE UNCONFIRMED ACCOUNT, MUSTAPHA'S OPEN CRITICISM OF M'BAREK IN MEETING AT OFFICE OF DEFENSE MINISTER LED TO SUBSEQUENT FIST FIGHT OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS DURING WHICH MUSTAPHA WAS THOROUGHLY TROUNCED. HE THEREAFTER RETURNED TO TOWN VISITING FIRST THE HOSPITAL AND THEN HIS POLITICAL PARTY ALLIES. SOON THEREAFTER, M'BAREK WAS KICKED UPSTAIRS TO NEWLY CREATED POST OF INSPECTOR GENERAL AND MUSTAPHA BECAME CHIEF OF STAFF. M'BAREK WHO WAS NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER AS WELL AS CHIEF OF STAFF IN 1977 WAS AGAIN IN A SENSE REPLACED BY MUSTAPHA IN EARLY 1978 WHEN MOHAMED OULD BABA WAS NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER AND MUSTAPHA ONCE AGAIN TOOK OVER THE DUTIES OF CHIEF OF STAFF.

3. COMMENT: WHILE MUSTAPHA HAS CLEARLY DONE AN ABOUT FACE IN HIS VIEWS REGARDING PARTY SUPREMACY, HE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE RETAINED CONSERVATIVE PRO-WESTERN ATTITUDE THAT HE HAS HELD SINCE LATE 1960'S. HE SEEMS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE US. HE HAS ACCEPTED DINNER INVITATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR AS WELL AS WITH THE DCM AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IS ON CLOSE AND CORDIAL TERMS WITH THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE ACCREDITED TO NOUAKCHOTT BUT RESIDENT IN DAKAR.  
KRYZA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978NOUAKC01878  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780305-0119, D780282-0464  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2066185  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON LT.COL. MUSTAPHA OULD MUHAMMED SALEK  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, MORG, PINR, MR, (MUHAMED SALEK, MUSTAPHA OULD)  
**To:** STATE  
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